



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 April 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- Reuters reports a Senate committee approved legislation on Thursday, April 8, which requires the Department of Homeland Security to assess U.S. railroad security risks nationwide. (See item [14](#))
- The Agence France–Presse reports that seven suspected bombers in Madrid who blew themselves up to avoid police capture were planning to set off explosives in a shopping mall during the Easter weekend. (See item [31](#))
- The Associated Press reports that Britain has warned its citizens that tourist areas in Thailand could be targeted by terrorists, while the United States and Australia cautioned travellers about visiting the country's south following a string of attacks by Islamic separatists. (See item [32](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *April 09, Bloomberg* — Oil consumption to rise faster than expected in 2004, IEA says. World oil consumption will rise faster than expected this year because of China's surging economy, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), an adviser to 26 industrialized countries. The agency increased its forecast for growth in oil demand by 60,000 barrels a day to 1.7 million barrels daily, the sixth consecutive monthly increase.

Consumption of fuels will drop by 2 million barrels a day in the second quarter, 300,000 barrels less than expected last month, to 78.3 million barrels a day, the Paris– based agency said in a monthly report. "China's fast–rising energy consumption fuels most of the growth in global oil demand," the IEA said. "Second–quarter apparent demand may again exceed expectations, despite seasonal maintenance at several large refineries." While demand is rising, the IEA cut its estimate of supply from countries that don't belong to OPEC. Non–OPEC nations will increase production by 1.27 million barrels a day this year, 185,000 barrels a day less than forecast last month.

Source: <http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000085&sid=ap4sjQ8Dr1rE&refer=europe>

2. *April 09, The Oregonian* — **Advisory panel warns against utility dependence on BPA.**

Northwest power companies need to plan for their own growing energy demands rather than relying so heavily on the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) network of hydroelectric dams and a nuclear plant. That's what the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, a federal advisory board with representatives from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, said Thursday, April 8, about the role the BPA should play as an energy provider of last resort. The council's recommendations are designed to help stabilize the region's energy prices. The Northwest council also recommended that the BPA enter 20–year contracts with utility and industrial customers in order to give itself more protection from future market fluctuations. **Under the draft plan released Thursday, each of Bonneville's customers would be allocated a set portion of the system's low–cost, 8,000 megawatt production based on past use, council director Dick Watson said. When an individual customer needs more than its allotted share of power, he said, the customer will have to purchase power on the open market or implement conservation measures.** Customers can still ask the BPA to acquire the extra power on their behalf, but the agency would charge a separate rate reflecting the price available on the open market.

Source: <http://www.oregonlive.com/business/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/business/1081512064160450.xml>

3. *April 09, TheSanDiegoChannel.com* — **Federal safety drill prompts evacuation. A suspicious device found at a San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) substation in Encanto, CA, Friday, April 9, turned out to be part of an unannounced federal security drill, a company official said. The device, a plastic soda bottle with wires attached, was discovered by a worker who was walking around the substation at 6836 Benson Ave. at about 7:30 a.m., said Ed Van Herik, of SDG&E. "He alerted our security department, who called the police who, in turn, called the bomb squad," Van Herik said. Police evacuated the 6800 block of Benson and established a perimeter of about 300 yards, Van Herik said. The device was removed around 1 p.m. and determined to be part of a Department of Defense training mission. When it was discovered that the device was a part of an exercise, the agencies continued to treat it as a danger and gained the full benefits of the situation, according to 10News.**

Source: <http://www.thesandiegochannel.com/news/2991038/detail.html>

4. *April 08, Associated Press* — **New York grid operator forecasts adequate electricity supplies. The operator of New York state's electricity grid said Thursday, April 8, that new power plants, programs to curtail power use and out–of–state energy suppliers will provide "adequate" power supplies this summer. The New York Independent System**

Operator (NYISO) expects peak electricity demand to reach 31,800 megawatts this summer under average conditions. Demand could reach 33,390 megawatts with a prolonged heat wave, NYISO said. Currently, 37,254 megawatts are available from power plants across the state. In New York City and Long Island, where there are fewer power lines and plants to provide electricity, a long hot spell could make electricity supplies "tight," the agency said. NYISO Chief Executive William Museler said more power plants need to be built to keep the state from depending too heavily on out-of-state power producers. **"An extended heat wave could quickly deplete our in-state resources this summer and cause us to rely on out-of-state supplies, which may not be as readily available to New York consumers,"** he said.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-ny--electricityforeca0408apr08.0.6932164.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire>

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Chemical Sector

5. *April 09, WHIO-TV (OH)* — **Health officials warn of contaminated creek.** Health and fire officials are warning Clark County, OH, residents to keep away from a Pike Township creek for 48 hours. They said **a mysterious white foam appeared in the creek early Friday, April 9. Investigators believe a chemical spill from a nearby fertilizer company along Detrick-Jordan Pike may have caused the mysterious foam,** and are conducting tests to determine the properties of the chemical. Officials from Springfield's hazmat team and Emergency Management Agency are trying to determine how much damage has been made to the creek. They said the water flows to Donnell's Creek and into the Mad River.

Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/2990449/detail.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *April 09, Daily Press (VA)* — **Navy debates Pacific carrier. The Navy plans to decide later this year whether to permanently station an aircraft carrier in the central Pacific to better respond to threats in Asia, senior Navy officials confirmed** Thursday, April 8. Adm. Vernon Clark, chief of naval operations, said he plans to make a decision on carrier homeports by the end of the year to help guide next year's military-base closures. The Navy has a fleet of 12 carriers, divided equally between the Atlantic and Pacific. On the East Coast, five carriers are based in Norfolk, VA, and one is in Mayport, FL. In the Pacific fleet, three carriers are now in San Diego, CA, two are in Washington state, and one is based in Japan. **In recent months, military and political leaders have spoken of the growing threats confronting the United States in Asia, notably from a nuclear-armed North Korea, a resurgent China and tensions between India and Pakistan.** The most likely new base for a Pacific carrier, officials have said, is Hawaii or the Pacific island of Guam, a U.S. territory.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-90717sy0apr09.0.7179747.story?coll=dp-headlines-topnews>

7.

April 08, Associated Press — Navy contractor workers arrested for immigration violations. **Thirty-one employees of a Navy contractor who have access to military installations and vessels were arrested Thursday, April 8, on immigration charges, authorities said. The suspects worked in San Diego, CA, for Continental Maritime, a unit of Northrop Grumman Corp.'s Newport News division. They worked in ship maintenance jobs, including welding, painting, mechanics and pipefitting.** The arrests cap a two-month investigation of Continental Maritime during which authorities reviewed records of 755 employees. Authorities said most suspects entered the United States illegally and used counterfeit documents to get hired. Three suspects who identified themselves as Continental Maritime employees could not be located in company records, authorities said. Several suspects had criminal histories, most of them drug-related, said Lauren Mack, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security. One was convicted of spousal battery. Of the 43 people arrested, 41 were Mexican and two were Colombian. Three were referred to federal prosecutors for charges of re-entering the country after being deported. The others were placed in deportation proceedings.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/states/california/the_valley/8389369.htm

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *April 09, Reuters* — **Planters, Regions merger gets U.S. antitrust nod.** U.S. antitrust authorities said on Friday, April 9, they had approved the merger of Regions Financial Corp. and Union Planters Corp. without imposing conditions on the banks. Antitrust officials have ended their investigation of the deal without taking any action, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission said in a notice. **The deal was valued at \$5.9 billion when it was announced in January and would create one of the largest banks in the Southeast United States. The combined bank, to be known as Regions Financial Corp., would have \$80.5 billion of assets, \$55.9 billion of deposits and about 1,400 offices in 15 states stretching from Florida to Iowa.**

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040409/financial_planters_ftc_2.html

9. *April 09, Associated Press* — **Three charged with snaring mail for identity fraud scam. The discovery of bags of undelivered mail in a trash bin has led to the arrests of three people accused of fitting ingenious devices in street-corner postal collection boxes to snare victims' mail. Fitting snugly in the collection boxes' openings, the "mail stops" intercepted more than 180 pieces of mail from people in seven Lake County (IL) cities, federal investigators said.** The three people retrieved the mail, which sat in the devices until it could be recovered, then opened the mail for checks or billing-account data, authorities said. Rich Ligon, a U.S. postal inspector, said the trio employed a number of metal traps that the defendants called "mail stops" to plunder bank accounts. He said postal inspectors nationwide have been notified because the devices appear mass-manufactured, fit perfectly into the boxes' opening and are even postal blue. Federal prosecutors charge that Mary K. Campbell admitted to authorities that the trio opened the mail for checks or billing-account data that was inputted into laptop computers and printers to manufacture counterfeit driver's licenses and blank checks that financed drug use and their travels across the country, including Chicago and other parts of

Indiana.

Source: <http://www.indystar.com/articles/9/136469-4699-102.html>

10. *April 08, Computerworld* — **FDIC warns of scam targeting consumers' bank accounts.** Consumers and financial institutions are being warned of a new e-mail scam that purports to be from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) that advises consumers to click on an attached file for more information about alleged fraudulent activity regarding their bank accounts. Instead, according to FDIC spokesperson David Barr, the attached file is either a computer virus or a program that can steal personal information from a computer and send it to the scammer. In an announcement Thursday, April 8, the FDIC said the e-mails are sent from "security" at fdic.com, with a subject line called "fraud report." The e-mail tells recipients that their bank accounts have been temporarily closed because of fraudulent activity, then directs the recipients to open an attached file for details. "We've detected that the attachment has a virus," he said. FDIC security personnel are still working to determine what the virus does on target machines. The FDIC was hit in January when a phishing scam was used to try to lure consumers into entering their personal bank-account information onto a Webpage that claimed to be from the agency. Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/cybercrime/story/0,10801,92050,00.html>

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Transportation Sector

11. *April 09, Agence France Presse* — **French railways hit by series of terror threats.** The scare that led to the evacuation of five commuter rail stations in Paris on Thursday, April 8, was the latest in a series of threats. **A tip-off from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) led transport authorities to shut down the A line of the RER suburban rail network, which runs through the city center, just after peak travel time.** The line was re-opened at 9.30 p.m. No suspicious items were discovered. The incident was a new sign of the terrorist jitters affecting all European capitals, following the March 11 bomb attacks in Madrid that killed more than 190 people. "We had to base our reaction on the principle of responsibility and precaution ... We have to stay on the alert and respond to all the signals that reach us," Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin said Friday. **France has also faced a threat from an obscure group, or possibly individual, calling itself AZF, which has planted at least one bomb on the rail network in a campaign to blackmail money out of the government.** A second bomb was found on tracks southeast of Paris last month, but it has yet to be established if it was placed there by AZF.

Source: http://www.expatica.com/source/site_article.asp?subchannel_id=58&story_id=6499

12. *April 09, Associated Press* — **TSA weighing pilot program to allow nonpassengers into airport.** Federal security officials are considering a first-in-the-nation pilot program to let nonticketed people through security at Pittsburgh International Airport for the first time since the September 2001 terrorist attacks. Airport officials and western Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation have pushed for the change for two years, which could become a model for other airports if it is approved, said JoAnn Jenny, spokesperson for the Allegheny County Airport Authority, which runs the airport. Two factors make Pittsburgh's airport a

strong candidate for such an experiment, Jenny said. The airport has a centralized security checkpoint in one terminal, unlike some airports. It also has an Airmall, a series of 100 shops and restaurants inside the main terminal, which only ticketed passengers have been able to patronize since security was tightened after September 11, 2001. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials confirmed that they've met recently to discuss the plan with Pittsburgh officials and expect to review it soon. Airport officials will submit a rough draft later this spring, which, if approved by Deputy Homeland Security Secretary James Loy, could take effect by summer, Jenny said.

Source: http://pennlive.com/newsflash/pa/index.ssf?/base/news-15/108_1531754217900.xml

13. *April 08, Associated Press* — **System can detect fraudulent passports. Australia has added a new weapon to its arsenal, a toaster-sized document reader that tells in seconds whether a passport is a fraud and identifies travelers who might be included on terrorist watch lists.** "What we're trying to do is strengthen border security by making sure that the people who are coming into this country are who they say they are," said Tim Chapman, a manager with Australia's Customs Service. **Australia has installed 400 of the units at its international airports in hopes of authenticating the documents of every person entering.** The system ranges from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per unit. It uses multiple light sources to examine hundreds of security features on travel documents. Many of the features, including the composition of ink, are invisible to the naked eye. Australia joins Canada, Hungary, Sweden, Finland, and Nigeria among the countries using the technology. Chapman said the system was deployed in Australia in mid-February and already has detected false documents.

Source: http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2004/04/09/ap/HiTe_ch/d81r97ho2.txt

14. *April 08, Reuters* — **Senate committee approves rail, port security bills.** A Senate committee approved legislation on Thursday, April 8, to beef up U.S. rail security but gutted a proposed fee on shippers that would have raised \$400 million a year to pay for port security improvements. "Rail security is a matter of national security," said Senator Ernest Hollings, a South Carolina Democrat. "It's no longer a function we can leave to the private sector." **The \$1.1 billion measure requires the Department of Homeland Security to assess U.S. railroad security risks nationwide. The measure includes grants for states to hire more rail police and bomb-sniffing dogs, funding for tunnel improvements in New York and Washington, and technology to more safely haul hazardous materials on freight trains. It also authorizes a pilot program for screening passengers and their bags as well as cargo carried on passenger trains.** The U.S. Transportation Security Administration has already announced testing of a smaller-scale passenger and bag screening program. Among other things, the bill would require the government to assess the program for screening containers on ships overseas before they leave for the United States.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=domesticNews&storyID=4790677>

15. *April 08, Washington Post* — **LAX unveils security plan. Troubled by violence and terrorist threats, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) has unveiled a \$9 billion plan to transform itself into what the city's mayor contends would be the nation's highest-security airport.** Under the plan, casino-style security cameras would search crowds for suspicious behavior. Passengers would pass through two screening checkpoints equipped with the latest explosive-detection technologies. Travelers would no longer be allowed curbside pickup and drop-off at the terminal. Instead, they would be let off a mile from the

airport, where they would go through security screening and then hop aboard a "people mover" train to their gates. **"We wanted to come up with a design that, no matter what the threat level is, whether orange or red . . . whatever level happens, our airport doesn't have to change,"** said Mayor James K. Hahn, who described the plan as a national model for airport security. "We will have, effectively, the first 'code red' airport in the nation."

Source: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/4696657/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *April 08, Financial Times* — **FedEx expansion.** FedEx, the world's largest air-express shipper, revealed further details on how it plans to integrate Kinko's, which it acquired in January for \$2.4bn, into the FedEx system. Kinko's stores primarily offer print copy services to walk-in customers and small- and medium-sized businesses. **FedEx expects to transform the Kinko's stores, which number over 1,000 in the U.S., into full-service shipping centers where customers can handle all their document needs, from printing to packing to shipping. In the next few months, the company expects to implement its full line of shipping services in stores, including packaging.** FedEx will also use its international network to expand Kinko's outlets overseas. The acquisition is clearly a direct competitive challenge to rival United Parcel Service, which purchased MailBoxes Etc a few years ago and converted them to UPS Stores.

Source: <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1079420246268>

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Agriculture Sector

17. *April 09, Agence France Presse* — **Bird flu resurfaces in Thailand. Thailand 's hopes of declaring itself free of the bird flu virus were dashed again Friday, April 9, after fresh outbreaks were detected in two provinces, agriculture officials said.** "We have found bird flu in two provinces, Chonburi and Khon Kaen," deputy Agriculture Minister Newin Chidchob told reporters. "They were still a problem and the affected areas were put on surveillance, and if there are no new findings I expect we could declare ourselves bird flu free on April 27," he said. Both areas had recorded outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 strain of avian influenza earlier in the year. **Thailand slaughtered at least 36 million birds, mainly chickens, and slapped quarantine regulations on affected zones in an effort to halt the spread of the disease which hit 41 of its 76 provinces.** The resurgent disease has vexed Thai authorities who for the past six weeks have been eager to declare an end to the bird flu crisis which decimated its massive poultry industry. Thailand originally planned to declare itself free of the disease by the end of February following an initial wave of outbreaks in January, but was forced to back track when nine more cases were announced on February 16. A similar announcement was then put off on March 16 when fears surfaced that bird flu had re-emerged in 11 provinces.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/608940.cms>

Food Sector

18. *April 09, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **Mexico accepting certain U.S. beef items.** Mexico has announced it will begin accepting imports of certain additional U.S. beef offal items, trimmings, and veal, industry officials said. The shipments are expected to begin as soon as the Mexican and U.S. governments can make the needed changes to their required shipping documents. Richard Fritz, vice president for trade development at the U.S. Meat Export Federation, said that Mexico will allow imports of additional U.S. beef items that include veal, tallow, hearts, livers, tongues, kidneys, lips, diaphragm, and certain trimmings. Fritz said Mexico will need to amend its import permits before any shipments can be made. James Hodges, president of the American Meat Institute Foundation, said Mexico's announcement is good news for the U.S. beef and meatpacking industries. **Prior to This announcement, Mexico had been allowing only imports of U.S. boneless beef from animals under 30 months of age, Fritz said.**

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24470

19. *April 09, Associated Press* — **USDA nixes packer plan to test cows.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has rebuffed a meatpacker's plan to test every animal at its Kansas slaughterhouse for mad cow disease. The refusal quiets a firestorm in the cattle industry sparked by Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, a Kentucky-based meatpacking company that was seeking to privately test each animal at its Arkansas City, KS, plant. **"We are looking at what the consensus of international experts is when it comes to testing, and that consensus is that 100 percent testing is not justified," Agriculture Department spokesperson Alisa Harrison said.** The USDA is under pressure from some lawmakers and consumer advocates to expand its testing program. Japan, the biggest market for U.S. beef, is demanding the United States test all 35 million cattle that are slaughtered each year. Creekstone said its customers in Japan promised to buy Creekstone beef again if the company tested for the brain wasting disease in every animal processed at the plant.

Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/nation/8392_937.htm

20. *April 05, Food Production Daily* — **Wrigley buys into top slots in China and India.** Growing through international expansion, chewing gum giant Wm. Wrigley Jr has closed on a deal to acquire the Joyco gum and confectionery businesses from Agrolimen, a privately-held Spanish food conglomerate. **The acquisition brings the Pim Pom, Boomer, and Solano brands into Wrigley's portfolio.** The world's largest manufacturer and marketer of chewing gum, Wrigley is still dominant but faces increasing competition from Nestle and Colgate-Palmolive. This latest cash transaction is for Joyco's operations in China, France, India, Italy, Poland and Spain along with Cafosa, its chewing and bubble-gum base business. In China and Spain Joyco has the number one market position for bubblegum, and is number one in China and India for confectionery lollipops.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/news-NG.asp?id=51133>

Water Sector

21. *April 09, Water Tech Online* — **New drinking water methods proposed by EPA. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently proposing a rule to approve dozens of new and updated testing methods for drinking water and wastewater, according to the American Water Works Association (AWWA).** Included in the EPA's proposal are 28 drinking water methods developed by ASTM International and 64 drinking water methods in Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, jointly published by AWWA, the American Public Health Association, and the Water Environment Federation. The rule also proposes to approve alternate test procedures for detecting cyanide in water and wastewater samples and assessing acute toxicity of wastewater samples, AWWA said.
Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=46997

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Public Health Sector

22. *April 09, Medical News Today* — **Prion research. Researchers at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine have taken a major step towards understanding how abnormal prion proteins, the suspected cause of mad cow and related diseases, change shape to jump from one animal species to another.** In test tube experiments, they were able to make human prion proteins exhibit characteristics of mouse prions or hamster prions through the substitution of either one or two amino acids. **Furthermore, they describe how prions may overcome natural transmissibility barriers between two species of mammals. This may happen if prion proteins from one of these two species have been exposed to abnormal prions from a third species.** The new study demonstrates that fundamental aspects of prion propagation in mammals, including the species barrier and strain diversity, can be reproduced in a test tube using a highly purified protein, a finding that provides a strong support for the hypothesis that mad cow disease and related disorders are caused by prion proteins only. Prion diseases, also known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, are a group of infectious neurodegenerative disorders that include Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease in humans, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) in cattle, and chronic wasting disease in deer and elk.
Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/index.php?newsid=7121>
23. *April 09, Guardian (United Kingdom)* — **GE completes Amersham takeover. Amersham, a UK medical diagnostics company, promised a "new chapter in medicine" Thursday, April 8, as it was swallowed by the U.S. conglomerate General Electric (GE).** Sir Bill Castell, Amersham's chief executive, said he was "very excited" about running the merged business, GE Healthcare, which is expected to generate annual revenues of \$14 billion. **It will be based in Buckinghamshire, the first time a GE business has located its headquarters outside the United States.** Amersham specializes in the injectable diagnostic dyes which work with many of the scanning machines already made by GE. The "healthcare technologies" side of the business will continue to be run from Waukesha, Wisconsin.
Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,3604,1188754,00.h tml>

24. *April 09, Associated Press* — **Veterinarians increasingly on front lines in identifying diseases in humans.** When medical detectives track the source of a new outbreak, increasingly they look no farther than the animal world. **That's because about 75 percent of all new infectious diseases, including high-profile ones like SARS, bird flu, monkeypox, and West Nile virus, originate from animals. As a result, veterinarians and other animal disease researchers are often needed to help combat these emerging germs among humans.** "Many of the world's major diseases are either diagnosed or the initial control is done by veterinarians," said Keith Prasse, dean of the college of veterinary medicine at the University of Georgia. Vets have helped investigate outbreaks on cruise ships and led field teams during the 2001 attacks of anthrax, traditionally a disease seen in cattle on farms. "You're just as likely to find a bioterrorist agent in an animal health diagnostic lab or vet office as a physician's office or hospital," said Dr. Lonnie King, dean of the Michigan State college of veterinary medicine. Source: http://www.freep.com/news/statewire/sw95916_20040409.htm

25. *April 08, CIDRAP* — **West Nile cases linked to donated blood. More than 800 donated blood units went unused because of West Nile virus (WNV) infection in 2003, but enough infected blood escaped detection to cause six WNV cases in blood recipients,** according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). **The six cases in 2003 compare with 23 reported in 2002.** The 2002 cases led to the rapid development of nucleic-acid amplification tests (NATs) for WNV in blood. From June until early December of 2003, NATs were used to screen about 6 million units of blood for WNV, leading to the removal of at least 818 viremic donations from the blood supply, the CDC says. Blood was screened in "mini-pools" of samples from 6 or 16 units, depending on the test kit used. When a mini-pool tested positive, samples of individual donations from that pool were tested. In addition, some blood banks serving areas with WNV epidemics screened all blood units individually for limited periods. Source: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/other/wnv/news/apr0_804wnv.html

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *April 09, Savannah Now* — **Savannah receives \$3.7 million to upgrade emergency radios.** The city of Savannah, GA, will receive \$3.7 million from the U.S. Office of Domestic Preparedness to upgrade police and emergency radio systems, city officials learned Thursday, April 8. **Along with improving the emergency radio system, the funds mean the city won't have to request as much money to cover costs associated with this summer's G-8 Summit.** The city is in the process of applying to the state for a portion of \$25 million in G-8 money. They have requested \$9.5 million to cover security and other costs. Last month, the city spent \$2.2 million to upgrade to a secure digital radio system. **The new money will be used for 633 portable radios, four radio repeaters, a 400-foot radio tower, and other equipment.**

Source: http://www.savannahnow.com/stories/040904/LOC_radio.shtml

27. *April 08, Associated Press* — **States delay spending first-responder funds. States and localities have been slow to spend federal funding earmarked for police, firefighters, and other emergency first responders, according to a report released Thursday, April 8, by federal investigators.** But in many cases, the federal government's failure to provide spending guidelines contributed to the delays, the report concluded. The report by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general, who serves as the agency's watchdog, described bureaucratic logjams over the money at every level of government. "State officials told us that they prefer to go slow to get it right," DHS Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin wrote in the 52-page report. The report examined distribution and spending in the 10 states that received the most grant money. The 10 states were awarded \$124 million in 2002. Of the \$124 million, 82 percent sat unspent in the federal Treasury, the report noted. States and localities also pointed to administrative delays at the state, county, and city levels as a reason for the bottleneck.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/nation/2494543>

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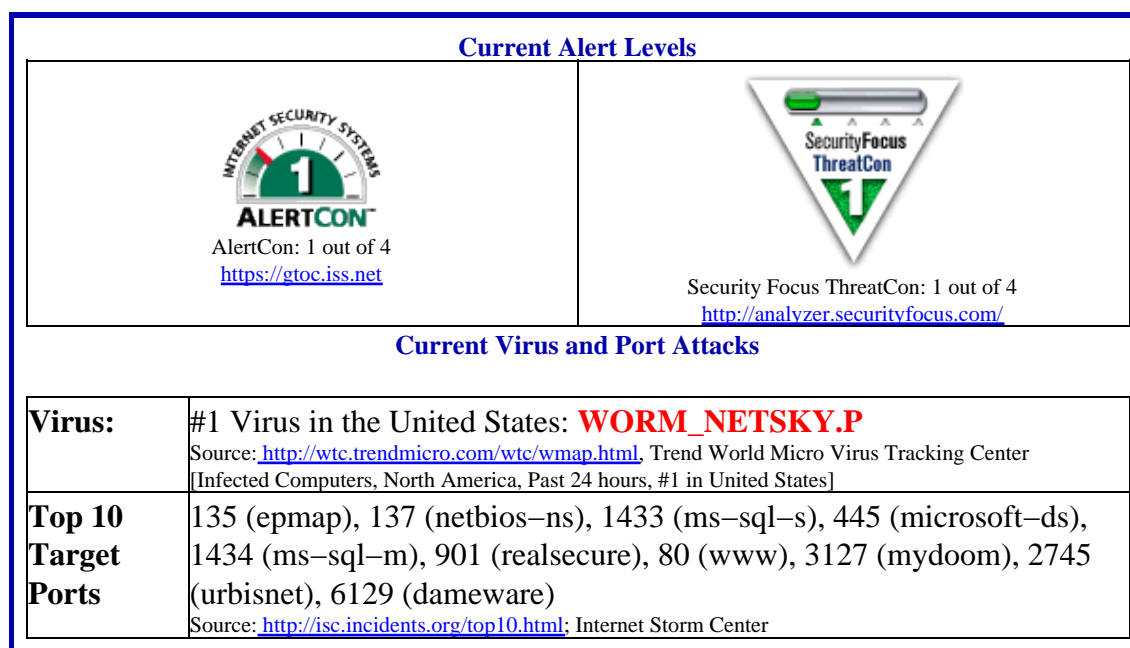
Information and Telecommunications Sector

28. *April 09, MacCentral.com* — **Apple responds to Trojan horse advisory.** Security software-maker Intego on Thursday, April 8, issued an advisory saying it had found Apple OS X's first Trojan Horse. **The Trojan horse, called MP3Concept (MP3Virus.Gen), exploits a weakness where applications can appear to be other types of files, according to the company.** The release of the Trojan Horse, which has been classified by some as more of a proof-of-concept rather than a real Trojan Horse, may be the result of Apple's own success in marketing its operating system. As Mac OS X becomes more popular in the market, virus writers will receive more notoriety for exposing vulnerabilities. While the Trojan Horse itself may be benign, exposing the vulnerability is significant. Symantec Corp. said they were also aware of the Trojan, but noted that the virus has not been found in the "wild." **Apple Computer Inc. said Friday they were aware of the issue outlined by Intego and were investigating.**
Source: <http://maccentral.macworld.com/news/2004/04/09/appletrojan/>

29. *April 09, Mobile Pipeline* — **Second Cisco WLAN security treat exposed. Cisco faced its second serious WLAN security threat last week when a network and security analyst released a tool that attacks the company's proprietary Lightweight Extensible Authentication Protocol (LEAP) wireless authentication system.** Joshua Wright of Johnson & Wales University reported in an Insecure.org discussion list that he reported the problem, which makes LEAP vulnerable to offline dictionary attacks, to Cisco. Wright strongly urged LEAP users to take alternative measures. "Customers using LEAP should be aware that the usernames and password of their user account are exposed, and should plan for the deployment of alternate authentication mechanisms such as PEAP or TTLS," Wright said in his posting. "Disabling user accounts after successive failed login attempts will not help protect against unauthorized access, since this is an offline attack that can be run at the attacker's leisure. At a bare minimum, LEAP users should immediately audit and expire user passwords that are based on dictionary words, or common derivations."
Source: <http://www.mobilepipeline.com/news/18900815;jsessionid=3TNL4>

30. *April 08, SearchWebServices.com* — **OASIS ratifies core security spec.** WS–Security, the core security specification that enables interoperability between other Web services security standards and security protocols, was ratified Wednesday, April 7, as a standard by OASIS. Security has long been considered a roadblock to widespread Web services adoption. Web services, essentially application–to–application communication, rely on secure message transmissions. Standards like WS–Security, SAML and others detail the encryption, authorization and access technologies and policies used by these messages. **WS–Security supports multiple security tokens, trust domains, signature formats and encryption technologies, according to OASIS. In addition to specifying how SOAP messages should be encrypted and decrypted, WS–Security also details authorization requirements and access privileges between applications, enterprises, suppliers and customers.** Now that developers have a working, ratified spec, vendors may accelerate their use of WS–Security in their products. Additional information available on the OASIS Website:
http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=w_ss
 Source: http://searchwebservices.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid26_gci958779,00.html

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

31. *April 11, Agence France–Presse* — **Threat of terrorism clouds Europe's Easter.** Millions of people around the world observed Good Friday, the first of the three holiest days in the Christian calendar, clouded by warnings of terror attacks in Europe. **In Rome, the headquarters of the Catholic Church, the Italian government said it had placed 23,000**

police and paramilitary troops on guard against terrorist attacks over the Easter period.

In Madrid seven suspected bombers who blew themselves up to avoid police capture left a video warning that "rivers of blood would flow" unless Spanish troops leave Iraq. In it, **three armed men dressed in traditional Arab clothes warned: "We will kill you anywhere at anytime" and went on to recall "the Spanish crusade against Muslims" in 1492** which ended almost eight centuries of Islamic rule in Spain, the only European country to come under Arab domination. Police said they also found maps of a suburban shopping mall where they suspected the bombers had plans to set off explosives during the Easter weekend. The Associated Press reported that **the facility has 193 stores, a hotel and a 2500-seat multi-cinema.**

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nationworld/bal-te.europe11apr11.0.5954853.story?coll=bal-nationworld-headlines>

- 32. April 10, Associated Press — U.S., Britain, Australia urge citizens to avoid southern Thailand. Britain has warned its citizens that tourist areas in Thailand could be targeted by terrorists while the United States and Australia cautioned travellers about visiting the country's south following a string of attacks by Islamic separatists.** "The far south of Thailand has experienced incidents of criminally and politically motivated violence, including incidents attributed to armed local separatist or extremist groups," the U.S. State Department said in a statement. While most of the attacks have targeted buildings and people associated with the government, "some of the recent violence has been indiscriminate," it said, recommending that U.S. citizens avoid non-essential travel to the provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani, Yala, Satun, and Songkhla. **Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office warned of a "threat to British and other Western targets from terrorism in Thailand."** Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said that "Australians in Thailand, including Phuket, Pattaya, and other tourist and resort areas should exercise extreme caution. We continue to receive reports that terrorist elements in the region are planning attacks," it said, urging particular vigilance in southern Thailand."

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/04/09/1081326934788.html>

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